



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5802

January Session, 2005

* HB05802PH 040405 *

AN ACT CONCERNING VACCINATIONS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) (a) As used in this
2 section:

3 (1) "Department" means the Department of Public Health;

4 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;

5 (3) "Bioterrorism" means the intentional use of any microorganism,
6 virus, infectious substance or biological product that may be
7 engineered as a result of biotechnology, or any naturally occurring or
8 bioengineered component of any such microorganism, virus, infectious
9 substance or biological product, to cause or attempt to cause death,
10 disease or other biological malfunction in any living organism;

11 (4) "Disaster location" means any geographical location where a
12 bioterrorism attack, terrorist attack, catastrophic or natural disaster or
13 emergency occurs; and

14 (5) "First responders" means state and local law enforcement
15 personnel, fire department personnel, emergency medical personnel,
16 emergency management personnel and public works personnel who
17 may be deployed to a disaster location.

18 (b) The department shall offer a vaccination program for first
 19 responders who may be exposed to infectious diseases when deployed
 20 to a disaster location, which shall include, but not be limited to,
 21 hepatitis A vaccination, hepatitis B vaccination, diphtheria-tetanus
 22 vaccination, influenza vaccination, pneumococcal vaccination, other
 23 vaccinations recommended by the United States Public Health Service
 24 and immune globulins, as recommended by the Federal Emergency
 25 Management Agency.

26 (c) Participation by first responders in the vaccination program shall
 27 be voluntary, except as otherwise required by federal or state law.

28 (d) A first responder who volunteers to participate in the program
 29 may refuse an individual vaccination. Such first responder shall be
 30 exempt from such vaccination if (A) a written statement from a
 31 licensed physician is presented indicating that the vaccine is medically
 32 contraindicated for the first responder, or (B) the first responder signs
 33 a written statement that the administration of the vaccination conflicts
 34 with his or her religious tenets.

35 (e) If there is a vaccine shortage, the commissioner, in consultation
 36 with the Governor and the National Centers for Disease Control, shall
 37 establish a priority list for administration of such vaccination.

38 (f) The department shall notify first responders of the availability of
 39 the vaccination program and shall provide educational materials to
 40 first responders on ways to prevent exposure to infectious diseases.

41 (g) The department may, within available appropriations, contract
 42 with local health departments, district departments of health, not-for-
 43 profit home health care agencies, hospitals and physicians to
 44 administer vaccinations under the program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2005	New section
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PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*